

1
RURAL DISTRICT OF SEISDON
(STAFFORDSHIRE)



ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Chief Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1969

Council Offices,
WOMBOURNE,
Wolverhampton.

Tel. No. : WOMBOURNE 2454-8



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30077540>

SEISDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(as at 31st December, 1969)

Chairman :

Councillor J. INCH

Vice-Chairman :

Councillor J. T. HILL

Councillor D. E. BRAMALL (Chairman of the Council).

Councillor H. F. McTAGGART (Vice-Chairman of the Council).

Councillor L. J. A. BENNETT (Deputy Chairman of the Council).

Councillors G. L. BIRCH

S. BRINDLEY

G. H. HARRIS, C.C.

F. L. HOPSON

A. JEFFRIES

Mrs. P. M. JENKINS

E. L. JONES

I. A. KELLY

Miss E. E. LAURIE

K. E. MACKIE

P. F. PATEMAN

T. PREECE

J. C. SALMON

M. STONESTREET

F. L. TOOBY

W. L. TURNER

R. B. WILLIAMS, C.A.

SEISDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH PERSONNEL

Temporary Medical Officer of Health :

A. F. DUKES, M.B., Ch.B.

Chief Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent :

E. H. ROBERTS, Cert. R.S.I., Cert. Meat and Food Inspection.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector :

H. F. ROBINSON, Cert. R.S.I., Cert. Meat and Food Inspection.

Deputy Cleansing Superintendent and Additional Public Health Inspector :

G. DRAYCOTT, Cert. R.S.I., Cert. Meat and Food Inspection,
Smoke Inspector's Certificate.

Testamur—Institute of Public Cleansing.

Additional Public Health Inspector :

E. F. KELLY, Cert. R.S.I., Cert. Meat and Food Inspection.

(Duties of P.H.I.'s: Statutory Duties prescribed by Public Health Officer's Regulations; Public Cleansing; Petroleum and Shops Acts.)

Pupil Public Health Inspector :

C. R. WEAVER

Clerical Staff :

D. NALLY

Miss J. WOODWARD

Mrs. K. I. BAKER

Miss H. M. JORDAN

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH FOR 1969

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Seisdon Rural District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health, vital statistics and sanitary conditions of the rural district for the year 1969.

The vital statistics continue to compare favourably with the national figures. The population increased by 360, and the number of houses by 300. The birth rate has risen above the national average and still births were lower than last year. More babies are being delivered in hospital as more beds become available and domiciliary births were down by 8%, only three out of ten were delivered at home.

The death rate still remains below the national figures. Cancer of the Lung is still the commonest cause of death from malignant disease, although there has been a slight reduction in the number from last year. Ischaemic heart disease still remains the major killer followed by cerebro-vascular disease. The latter condition can be expected as more and more people are living to old age.

There have been no major outbreaks of infectious disease. The incidence of Measles continues to fall, being less than half the previous year. This can be attributed to more children being immunised against Measles. The shortage of vaccine which was experienced has now been resolved and parents should be encouraged to consult their Doctors with a view to getting children immunised.

Although there were only three congenital abnormalities in babies born during the year anything that can be done to reduce the incidence of abnormalities should be considered. German Measles is known to cause abnormalities if it occurs during the first three months of pregnancy. Rubella vaccine is now available and all girls who have not had Rubella should be vaccinated against the disease. Parents should particularly consider this when their daughters are over ten years old.

It has also been proved that smoking during pregnancy reduces the birth weight of babies and this is yet another reason why the smoking habit should be discouraged.

I take this opportunity of thanking various persons for their co-operation and advice during the past year and record particular appreciation of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, Mr. A. R. Baskett, Clerk and Chief Financial Officer of the Rural District Council, Mr. F. Bagley, Engineer and Surveyor to the Rural District Council, Miss H. Clark, Housing Officer, and Mr. E. H. Roberts, Chief Public Health Inspector to the Rural District Council.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

A. F. DUKES

September, 1970.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Population

Registrar-General

<i>Persons</i>		<i>Persons</i>	
1/7/67	38,060	—	490
1/7/68	38,840	+	780
1/7/69	39,200	+	360

HOUSES

Total number of inhabited houses in the Rural District :—

1st April, 1968	12,404
1st April, 1969	12,723

Sum represented by a penny rate 1968-69—£6,240
 1969-70—£6,522

Rateable Value 1968-69—£1,508,759
 1969-70—£1,595,742

General Rate 1968-69—12/2d. in the £.
 1969-70—13/2d. in the £.

(plus additional Parochial Rate of 1d. except Pattingham, which is 3d.).

Area : 43,495 acres, *i.e.* 68 square miles.

VITAL STATISTICS 1969

Live Births :					Males	Females	Total
Total	..	..	..	..	336	320	656
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	317	305	622
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	19	15	34

Still Births :					Males	Females	Total
Total	..	..	..	..	3	6	9
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	3	6	9
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	—	—	—

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :

					Males	Females	Total
Total	..	..	..	..	6	5	11
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	5	3	8
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	1	2	3

Deaths of Infants under four weeks of age :

					Males	Females	Total
Total	..	..	..	..	4	3	7
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	3	1	4
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	1	2	3

Deaths of Infants under one week of age :

					Males	Females	Total
Total	..	..	..	..	4	3	7
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	3	1	4
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	1	2	3

	Seisdon R.D.C. 1968	Seisdon R.D.C. 1969	England & Wales 1969
Number of Live Births	612	656	—
Rate per 1,000 population	15.8	16.7	16.3
Illegitimate Live Births (% of total live births)	3.9%	5%	—
Number of Still Births	11	9	—
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births... ..	17.6	14.0	13.0
Total Live and Still Births	623	665	—
Infant Deaths (deaths under one year)	8	11	—
Infant Mortality Rates—Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	13.0	17.0	18.0
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	10.2	13.0	17.0
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	83.3	88.6	25.0
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births)	8.1	11.0	12.0
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births)	8.1	11.0	10.0
Perinatal Mortality Rate (still births and deaths under one week per 1,000 total live and still births)	25.6	24.0	23.0
Maternal Mortality (including abortion) number of deaths	2	Nil	—
Comparability Factor (Births)	0.79	0.79	—
Standardised Birth Rate	12.5	13.2	—
Domiciliary Births	37.7% 231	29.1% 191	— —
Hospital Births	381	465	—

DEATHS

	1968 Seisdon	1969 Seisdon	1969 England and Wales
Deaths (at all ages) :			
Total for Seisdon	304	326	—
Males	166	160	—
Females	138	166	—
Death Rate per 1,000 population ...	7.83	8.3	11.9
Comparability Factor	1.51	1.5	—
Standardised Death Rate	11.8	12.5	—
Number of Women dying in or in conse- quence of Childbirth per 1,000 total live and still births	2	Nil	—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	36 M. 26 F. 62 Total	35 M. 30 F. 65 Total	—
Live Births exceeded total deaths by ...	308	330	—

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1969

	M.	F.	Total
Other infective and parasitic diseases ..	1	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus	2	—	2
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	5	8
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	3	3	6
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ..	17	2	19
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	3	3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	5	5
Malignant neoplasm, prostate	2	—	2
Leukaemia	2	3	5
Other malignant neoplasms	6	9	15
Diabetes mellitus	1	2	3
Other endocrine, etc., diseases	2	1	3
Anaemias	1	—	1
Other diseases of blood, etc.	—	1	1
Other diseases of nervous system, etc. ..	3	1	4
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	1	4	5
Hypertensive disease	1	3	4
Ischaemic heart disease	39	29	68
Other forms of heart disease	3	10	13
Cerebrovascular disease	22	28	50
Other diseases of circulatory system ..	4	5	9
Influenza	1	1	2
Pneumonia	10	16	26
Bronchitis and emphysema	10	8	18
Other diseases of respiratory system ..	4	2	6
Peptic ulcer	—	1	1
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	1	2	3
Cirrhosis of liver	1	—	1
Other diseases of digestive system	1	3	4
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	—	2
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system ..	—	2	2
Congenital anomalies	1	4	5
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	2	1	3
Other causes of perinatal mortality ..	1	—	1
Symptoms and ill defined conditions ..	2	6	8
Motor vehicle accidents	5	1	6
All other accidents	3	3	6
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	3	1	4
All other external causes	—	1	1
Totals	160	166	326

BIRTH RATES

	SEISDON		England and Wales
Year	No. of Births	Birth Rate	Birth Rate
1966	708	18.3	17.7
1967	693	18.2	17.2
1968	612	15.8	16.9
1969	656	16.7	16.3

DEATH RATES

	SEISDON			England and Wales
Year	No. of Deaths	Death Rate	Standardised Death Rate	Death Rate
1966	288	7.46	10.3	11.7
1967	298	7.82	10.9	11.2
1968	304	7.83	11.8	11.9
1969	326	8.3	12.5	11.9

LOCALITY-DISTRIBUTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

(excluding Tuberculosis) notified in 1969

Disease	TOTAL	Bobington	Codsall	Enville	Himley	Kinver	Lower Penn	Patshull	Pattingham	Swindon	Trysull and Seidon	Wombourne	Wrotesley
Scarlet Fever	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	114	—	56	—	—	23	—	—	2	3	1	19	10
Infective Jaundice	13	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—
Dysentery	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Food Poisoning	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—

INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1969

Deaths from causes stated, and at various ages, under one year of age :

Causes of Death.	Under one week	1 to 2 weeks	2 to 3 weeks	3 to 4 weeks	Total under one month.	1 to 3 months.	3 to 6 months.	6 to 9 months.	9 to 12 months.	Total deaths under one year.
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
Congenital abnormalities ...	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
Birth injury, difficult labour	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
Other causes of perinatal mortality	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
All other accidents	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
Totals	7	—	—	—	7	—	—	2	2	11

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE

Year	SEISDON			England and Wales Rate per 1,000 Births	Average (Seisdon) for last 5 years
	Births	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Births		
1965	762	21	27.6	19.0	22.1
1966	708	15	21.2	19.0	21.0
1967	693	8	11.5	18.3	19.9
1968	612	8	13.0	18.0	17.4
1969	656	11	17.0	18.0	18.0

PERI-NATAL MORTALITY RATE

(i.e. stillbirths, plus deaths of infants under one week of age, per 1,000 total live births and still births).

			England and Wales	Seisdon R.D.
1965	..	..	26.9	28.5
1966	..	..	26.3	23.7
1967	..	..	25.4	19.9
1968	..	..	25.0	25.6
1969	..	..	23.0	24.0

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

IN THE DISTRICT

Voluntary Services—Meals-on-Wheels

These voluntary services are now operating in Enville in addition to Kinver, Wombourne and Codsall. Appreciation of the voluntary work carried out by the ladies and gentlemen of these villages in performing this service is here recorded. Also one would wish to thank the Committee of the Staffordshire County Council and the School Meals Service. As far as possible we have tried to use it for elderly persons who are handicapped and isolated in their homes. The Rural District Council and the Staffordshire County Council have contributed both by advice and by financial help.

In Wombourne area the meals are prepared at the canteen of the Midland Aluminium Limited, at a very modest charge. Our grateful thanks are due to this firm for their generous and ready help. Both Meals-on-Wheels and Luncheon Club function in Wombourne and are organised and carried out by the services of the R.W.V.S.

1968/69 Meals-on-Wheels :

Codsall	..	..	2,419	meals supplied
Kinver	..	..	1,241	„ „
Wombourne	..	..	1,570	„ „

1968/69 Wombourne Luncheon Club :

1,920 meals supplied

The net expenditure on the above for 1968/69 was £496 0s. 0d.

Estimates for 1969/70 :

Meals-on-Wheels	..	6,120	meals
Luncheon Club	..	1,800	„
		<hr/>	
		7,920	„
		<hr/>	

Estimated net expenditure on above £427 0s. 0d.

Clinics

These are the responsibility of the Staffordshire County Council and are situated throughout the district as follows :—

The Clinic, Mill Lane, Wombourne.
The Clinic, Elliotts Lane, Codsall.
New Clinic, High Street, Kinver.
The Clinic, New Village Hall, Pattingham.
The Clinic, Village Hall, Bobbington.

Contributions

The Rural District Council contributes financially to the following organisations :—

The Chest and Heart Association.
The Central Council for Health Education.
Dudley and District Family Planning Association.
Bilston and District Family Planning Clinic.
Midlands Joint Advisory Clean Air Council.
Marriage Guidance Council (Wolverhampton) Branch.
Noise Abatement Society.
N.S.P.C.C.
Wolverhampton Samaritans.

I am indebted to Mr. F. Bagley, C.Eng., M.I.Mun.E., A.M.I.C.E. the Council's Surveyor, for the following report on Rainfall, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal, Water and Housing. The report is dated 18th February, 1970.

RAINFALL

The average rainfall over the Seisdon Area during 1969 was 27.85 inches, which compares with the average rainfall for the standard 25 year period 1891-1915 of 27.14 inches ; the wettest month was May with 6.29 inches and the driest month was October with .21 inches. The average rainfall in 1968 was 29.32 inches and in 1967 was 26.82 inches.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The schemes for the extension of Wombourne and Kinver Sewage Disposal Works have received the approval of the Ministry and the tenders of Messrs. G. Law Limited, Kidderminster have been accepted in the sum of £325,000 for Wombourne and £161,000 for

Kinver. The duration of both contracts is 18 months and the starting date has been fixed for 1st March, 1970. Meanwhile, suspension of building operations continues in both parishes at the request of the Severn River Authority, but if the Contracts proceed according to plan it should be possible to lift restrictions in both parishes towards the Autumn of 1971.

Codsall Wood sewerage has now been completed at a cost of £13,000 and the scheme is operating.

The works of improvement by direct labour to Pattingham Sewage Disposal Works by the provision of grass plot tertiary treatment has been completed together with the extension of the sewer in Westbeech Road, and the construction of the pumping station. The whole scheme is now fully operative and recent analyses of the effluent from the works indicates that it fully complies with the standard required by the Severn River Board. Total cost approximately £10,000.

The scheme for the sewerage of Gospel End and Penn Common has been completed at a cost of £27,000 and properties are being connected to the sewer. The existing Penn Common Sewage Disposal Works on the Western boundary of Penn Common has been abandoned as part of the scheme and the properties situated at the northern side of the Common formerly draining to the Works are now connected to the new sewer.

Works of maintenance and improvement to the existing sewerage systems continue and the de-silting and pressure jetting of sewers at Wombourne and Kinver have been completed.

WATER

Notification has been received from the South Staffordshire Water Works Company that it is their intention to lay 700 yards of 6-in. diameter main to replace the old 3-in. diameter main at Stone Lane and Meddins Lane, Kinver, 1,167 yards of 6-in. diameter main to replace the old 3-in. diameter main Crab Lane, Bobbington and 200 yards of 6in. diameter main to replace the old 3-in. diameter main at Mill Lane, Kinver. These proposals will improve the supply in the Kinver and Bobbington areas, particularly in the higher levels of Six Ashes Road.

HOUSING

During 1969, 76 Council Houses were completed comprising 64 at Duck Lane, Codsall (1st phase) and 12 at Swindon (2nd phase) making a total of 3,263 completed since 1945. In addition 154 private houses were completed as compared with 178 in 1968 and 256 in 1967.

WATER SUPPLIES

The water supplies within the area have been generally satisfactory both in quality and quantity. As can be seen from the subsequent table only a very small proportion of the houses in the area are without a mains supply.

Parish.	Total Dwelling-houses in Parish April, 1969.	Estimated Population at mid-April, 1969.	Houses on Mains Supply Direct to House	Estimated Population
Bobbington ...	156	476	154	470
Codsall	2,876	8,772	2,876	8,772
Enville	188	573	173	528
Himley	258	787	258	787
Kinver	2,222	6,777	2,221	6,774
Lower Penn ...	529	1,613	529	1,613
Patshull	58	177	54	165
Pattingham ...	625	1,906	618	1,885
Swindon	266	811	266	811
Trysull and Seisdon	337	1,028	331	1,010
Wombourne ...	3,859	11,770	3,859	11,770
Wrottesley ...	1,349	4,114	1,347	4,108
Totals	12,723	38,804	12,686	38,693

There are no houses supplied from mains by means of stand-pipes ; but there are 37 houses with an estimated population of 112 which have private water supplies.

Bacteriological tests on all public and private supplies throughout the area are carried out as a routine measure and investigations are made into all unsatisfactory reports. The following Table summarises the bacteriological examinations made during the year.

Water Undertaking	Total Samples Taken	Ministry of Health Classification			
		Highly Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Suspicious	Unsatisfactory
Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking ...	35	35	—	—	—
The South Staffordshire Waterworks Company ...	144	144	—	—	—
City of Birmingham Water Department—Elan Valley Iverley	6	6	—	—	—
East Shropshire Water Board Six Ashes	9	9	—	—	—
Enville Estates Private Supply	59	57	—	1	1
Other Private Supplies ...	73	71	—	2	—

The following four Water Undertakings supply the parishes as mentioned :—

- (a) Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking supplies the Parishes of Codsall, Wrottesley, Patshull, Pattingham, Trysull and Seisdon, Lower Penn, Wombourne, Himley and Swindon.
- (b) South Staffordshire Waterworks Company supplies Kinver, Enville, Bobbington and the Iverley portion of Kinver since June, 1969.
- (c) City of Birmingham Water Department supplied the Iverley portion of Kinver until June, 1969.
- (d) East Shropshire Water Board supplies parts of Enville and Bobbington.

I am very much indebted to the respective Water Engineers of the above mentioned Water Authorities for the following information :—

(a) **Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking.**

- (1) The sources of supply are The Bratch, Dimmingsdale and Hilton Waterworks, Tettenhall No. 2 Reservoir and South Staffordshire Bulk Supply.
- (2) No artificial fluoridation of the supply is carried out. Natural fluoride content at any point within the supply area will fall within the range 0.02 to 0.11 parts per million. (as F).
- (3) The waters supplied are not plumbo solvent.
- (4) In addition to bacteriological examinations, microbiological, biological, chemical and radiological tests were carried out.
- (5) The estimated total population supplied is 395,368 including 31,029 residents in our District.
- (6) The following table indicates the hardness of water being distributed :—

District	Hardness	
	mgms. per litre	(Clark) Degrees
Seisdon and Trysull	265—286	19—20
Swindon, Smestow, Blakeley and Wombourne	105—142	8—10
Himley	105—232	8—17
Orton, Lower Penn, Nurton and Perton	237—310	17—22
Bilbrook, Codsall, Codsall Wood and Oaken	240—310	17—22
Pattingham	237—310	17—22

(b) **South Staffordshire Waterworks Company.**

- (1) The supply is derived from Ashwood and Kinver Pumping Stations.
- (2) The naturally occurring fluoride content of the supplying stations shows less than 0.1 p.p.m.
- (3) The waters from the supplying stations are not liable to plumbo solvency.
- (4) Bacteriological and chemical tests are carried out at both Ashwood and Kinver Pumping Stations and bacteriological samples are also taken from Kinver Reservoir.

(c) **City of Birmingham Water Department.**

- (1) The source of supply is the Elan Aqueduct.
- (2) The fluoride content is maintained at 1.0 p.p.m.
- (3) The raw Elan water has a plumbo-solvent action which is corrected by the addition of 8.25 p.p.m. of hydrated lime at the Elan Valley Works before entering the Aqueduct.
- (4) Bacteriological examinations are carried out on samples from the Aqueduct taken at Ludlow. Seisdon Rural District Council operate a small chlorination plant for the water supplied to houses at Iwerley.

(d) **East Shropshire Water Board.**

- (1) The source of this supply is the Birmingham Corporation Elan Aqueduct and the information regarding it is the same as at (c).
- (2) Water is treated by chlorination at Trimpby and held in a Reservoir at Quatt before passing to the Seisdon Rural District.

(e) **Swimming Pools.**

Swimming Pools exist at two schools situated at Codsall and Wombourne and these are tested by the Staffordshire County Council.

HOUSING

Local Authority Houses—Waiting List.

As at December, 1969, the statistics are :—

13 families living in condemned properties.
245 families living in lodgings.
58 families living in caravans, etc.
—
316 families in a priority group
plus
247 families occupying houses.
197 families living as service tenants.
—
444
Total — 760

The Housing Officer kindly supplied the following details :

	<i>As at</i>
	<i>Dec., 1969</i>
Total number of Council Houses in Seisdon R.D.C. at 31st December, 1969 ..	3,434
Number of families on the waiting list for Local Authority Houses at 31st December, 1969	760

Number of families housed in traditional dwellings during 1969 :—

Re-lets	9 (Overspill)
Re-lets	101 (Seisdon)
New Dwellings	57 (Seisdon)
	—
Total	167
	—

Improvement Grants—Housing.

(a) Amounts paid in the year up to 31/3/66 ..	£6,537
(b) Amounts paid in the year up to 31/3/67 ..	£6,000
(c) Amounts paid in the year up to 31/3/68 ..	£6,640
(d) Amounts paid in the year up to 31/3/69 ..	£8,183
(e) The number of houses recommended for Improvement Grants in 1969	34

PREVALANCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

								<i>Cases Notified</i>
Scarlet Fever								
1967	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
1968	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
1969	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

Whooping Cough

1967	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
1968	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
1969	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil

Immunisation against Whooping Cough is available at Infant Welfare Clinics throughout the Rural District and at the General Practitioners' Surgeries.

								<i>Cases Notified</i>
Measles								
1967	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	321
1968	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	257
1969	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	114

Diphtheria

No case of Diphtheria occurred in the year. The last case of Diphtheria in the Rural District occurred in 1950, in which year there were two cases. Immunisation against Diphtheria is available at Clinics throughout the Rural District, and also at the General Practitioners' Surgeries.

Number of children immunised against Diphtheria have been as follows :—

								1969
Primary Immunisation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	347
Reinforcement Immunisation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	803
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,150

Tetanus. Immunisation against Tetanus :—

Primary Tetanus Immunisation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	357
Reinforcement Tetanus Immunisation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	893
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,250

Infantile Paralysis (Poliomyelitis).

Poliomyelitis vaccine given in 1969 :

Primary Polio vaccine	381
Reinforcement Polio vaccine	780
Total	<hr/> 1,161 <hr/>

There have been 24 cases of Poliomyelitis in the Rural District in the last 21 years. One of these cases died. The last case of Poliomyelitis occurred in 1960.

Smallpox. Vaccinations against Smallpox.

Initial Vaccinations :	<hr/> 1969
Under one year	4
Age group 1—4	266
Age groups 5—15	33
	<hr/> 303 <hr/>

Re-vaccinations :	
Age group 1—4	1
Age groups 5—15	42
	<hr/> 43 <hr/>

Measles. Vaccination against Measles.

(Despite shortage of vaccine—one strain being withdrawn)

Under 1 year	4
Age group 1—4	297
Age group 5—15	65
	<hr/> 366 <hr/>

General Measures.

School notifications of infectious diseases are carefully scrutinised and made prompt use of for the purpose of guidance and location.

TUBERCULOSIS

Appreciation is here recorded of the co-operation and help given by the Housing Committee of Seisdon Rural District Council in giving priority to the housing recommendations of the M.O.H. in cases of Tuberculosis. This priority consists in awarding a variable number of housing points according to whether the case is an open sputum positive case or not, and takes account also of the number and condition of the children.

	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
On Register 31/12/68 ..	50	57	4	5
Cases entered on Register 1969	3	3	—	—
Cases removed from Register during 1969 ..	3	7	—	—
Remaining on Register 31/12/69	50	53	4	5
Total	103		9	

Total Number of Cases on Register :

	At 31/12/67	At 31/12/68	At 31/12/69
Pulmonary—Male	54	50	50
Pulmonary—Female	63	57	53
Non-Pulmonary—Male ..	4	4	4
Non-Pulmonary—Female ..	5	5	5
	126	116	112
Number per 1,000 population (Seisdon)	3.3	3.0	2.8
Average for Staffs. C.C. per 1,000 population	5.4	5.2	4.4
Number of Deaths of Seisdon Residents (Tuberculosis) ..	2	Nil	Nil

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
for the Year 1969.**

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Seisdon Rural District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my thirteenth Annual Report on the work of the Public Health and Cleansing Departments.

It is said that man pollutes his own environment in proportionate scale to the level of civilisation in which he lives. This is a disquieting thought which should spur us on with ever greater determination to tackle and resolve all sources of environmental pollution. I wish to make special reference to three problems none of which are new—control of private tips, smoke control, and litter.

In this European Conservation Year I make no apology for repeating certain observations made in last year's report with regard to the practical difficulties involved with trying to control the depositing of industrial waste in old sand quarries. In an extensive sand mining area such as this which is situated within easy reach of the industrial towns a number of private waste contractors have realised the opportunities available to them in the reinstatement of old sand quarry workings. I must again express my concern at the impracticability of trying to control both the materials being deposited and the manner of deposition on these private tips. Although new planning consents are adequately conditioned, the enforcement of compliance with such conditions is extremely difficult ; and in quarries which have been operating over many years a much greater problem of control exists. I am still of the opinion that all sites for the disposal of waste materials should be provided and operated by the local authority and thereby properly controlled.

The disfiguration of the country-side by uncontrolled private tipping is clearly indicated in the photograph that follows ; and the nuisance from litter blown by high winds from such uncontrolled tipping further highlights the possible need for some amendment to the Litter Act and the Civic Amenities Act.

Our progress with the formation of smoke control areas has been completely frustrating and no positive action has yet been achieved with the fifteen year programme which was approved in

1966. After the initial set-backs of the financial stringencies, how ludicrous it is that we now have to await an assurance upon the availability of sufficient solid smokeless fuels which cannot be before April, 1971 ; and who really knows then ? In the absence of any national fuel policy would it be right to press on with smoke control areas but using the available alternative fuels of gas, oil and electricity only ? I believe it would, for even in a rural area such as this there are many built-up areas which suffer serious low level atmospheric pollution.

The problems of litter still despoil our countryside in spite of the continuing expansion of your cleansing services. The provision of large containers strategically placed in which residents can deposit their surplus bulky rubbish have been greatly appreciated by those who use them properly, but the careless few who don't, create yet another problem. It is disappointing that so few of our neighbouring authorities have as yet taken any worthwhile practical action to comply with the spirit of the Civic Amenities Act. Until all authorities pull their weight the burden on those that do is unduly heavy. A typical container site provided by your Council is shown in the photograph.

I have been privileged to represent the Rural District Council's Association on the Executive Committee of the Keep Britain Tidy Group ; and my attendance at their meetings has enlightened me upon the extent of this Group's activities in spite of the very limited resources at their disposal. Their efforts deserve greater financial and other support particularly from local authorities who must stand to gain some benefit from their activities.

It is a number of years since the last staff changes took place within the department and I would like to make special reference to your Cleansing Superintendent, Mr. G. Draycott, who left in May, 1970, after nine years of exceptional service. We welcome Mr. W. E. Jevons as his successor ; and my congratulations to our first pupil public health inspector, Mr. C. R. Weaver, who qualified in June, 1970.

My thanks are due to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their confidence and support and to my colleagues for their ready co-operation. Once again it is my pleasure to express my appreciation to the staff of the Department both professional and clerical and to the workmen of the cleansing services for their work throughout another year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

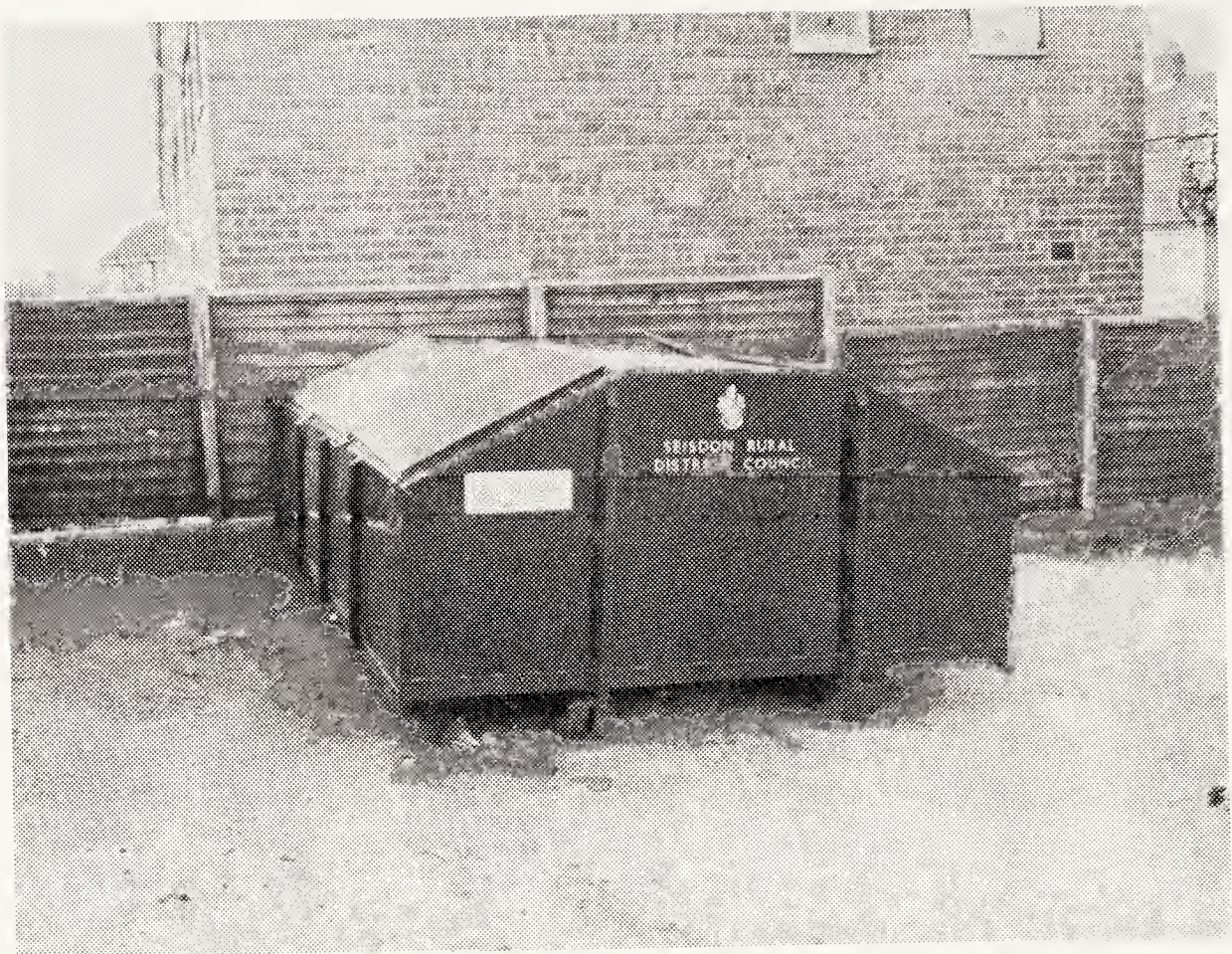
E. H. ROBERTS,

*Chief Public Health Inspector
and Cleansing Superintendent.*

September, 1970.



UNCONTROLLED PRIVATE TIPPING



REFUSE CONTAINER ON A CAR PARK OF A
COUNCIL HOUSING ESTATE



ABOVE : CONTAINER VEHICLE IN OPERATION

FOOD

Under the Food and Drugs Act and the many Regulations made under it public health inspectors are concerned with the fitness of food for human consumption and with the manner in which food is stored, processed, packaged and distributed. They are concerned both with the condition of the premises and vehicles used and also with the manner in which food is handled by the various operatives, as well as the all important aspect of the food itself and its fitness for human consumption.

This ever continuing service arouses very little attention until a national outbreak of food poisoning hits the headlines, and even then the publicity usually centres upon the probable cause with scarcely a comment upon the vast quantities of other food stuffs which have been safely consumed.

The increasing number of mixed businesses and self-service shops requires that food commodities shall be better protected from customer contamination. Whoever thought that the day would come when a bag of coal would be purchased in the same shop as one's groceries !

The biggest single failing in many shops today is the failure to provide proper stock rotation for perishable foods and many of our complaints are a result of this. The same failing occurs with many frozen food cabinets where the packets on the bottom can remain undisturbed if there is no system of rotation.

Food Premises.

There are a total of 233 food premises within the district and 435 inspections of these were carried out ; the following summary indicates the number of each type of premises :—

<i>Type of Food Premises.</i>	<i>No. of Premises</i>
Bakehouses	1
Butchers' Shops	23
Cafes, Snack Bars and Works Canteens	19
Fried Fish Shops	9
Grocers Shops	79
Hotels and Restaurants	14
Public Houses	46
Other Food Premises	42

All these 233 premises are fitted with adequate personal washing facilities to comply with Regulation 16 of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960.

Regulation 19, which requires the provision of facilities for the washing of food and equipment, applies to 221 of these premises and all these 221 premises are fitted to comply with the Regulation 19.

As a result of these routine inspections and the service of some 31 informal notices the following improvements were effected during the year to the various food premises as shown.

	Structurally Improved	Premises Redecorated	Improved Equipment Provided.	Improved Personal Hygiene and Handling	Improved Sanitary Accommodation
Butchers Shops	—	3	1	1	—
Cafes, Snack Bars and Works					
Canteens	—	1	1	—	1
Fried Fish Shops	—	3	—	—	—
Grocers Shops	—	10	1	4	—
Hotels and Restaurants ..	2	3	2	1	1
Public Houses	2	7	—	1	1
Other Food Premises ..	—	—	—	2	—
Total	4	27	5	9	3

Food Vehicles.

Inspections under the Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966, continued to be made and as can be seen from the table following, the owners of some vehicles are not always fully complying with the Regulations. In view of the distance of travel of some of these vehicles and variations in their routine it is not easy to organise re-inspections of particular vehicles. Notification of contraventions on vehicles based outside the rural district is therefore given to the public health inspector of the area from which they operate to ensure that contraventions noted are remedied.

	<i>Mobile Food Shops</i>	<i>Food Delivery Vehicles</i>
Number of vehicles inspected	30	26
<i>Contraventions</i>		
Section 5— Unsatisfactory condition of vehicle ..	2	3
Section 7— Food not protected from risk of contamination	1	—
Section 13— Name and address not displayed ..	4	5
Section 16— Inadequate personal washing facilities provided	1	—
Section 17— First aid materials not provided ..	5	—
Section 18— Inadequate washing facilities for food equipment	2	—
Section 22— No receptacles for waste	4	—

Licensed Clubs.

The opportunity in the Licensing Act, 1964, to make reports to the Licensing Justices upon the suitability of club premises continues to prove a valuable adjunct to the existing powers of the Food and Drugs Act.

During the year special reports were made upon ten club premises, and a total of 34 inspections of club premises were carried out.

Slaughterhouses.

There are two licensed slaughterhouses in the district, one in Pattingham operated by a Wholesale Meat Company and the other a private butcher's slaughterhouse in Codsall. The Construction Regulations have been operative since 1st April, 1961, and compliance with these Regulations has been maintained; for this purpose 14 inspections were made.

We have continued to receive good co-operation from the operators of both these slaughterhouses with regard to hours of slaughter and no action has therefore been necessary to control them.

Meat Inspection.

During the year your Inspectors paid a total of 514 visits to the slaughterhouses for the inspection of meat to ensure its fitness for human consumption and this involved the physical examination of 3,654 carcasses and their respective organs.

The inspection table which follows shows the complete absence once again of bovine tuberculosis, and the presence of tuberculosis in the organs of pigs was again very low. No *Cysticercus Bovis* was found during the year but other parasitic infestations again accounted for most of the other organs condemned. Most of the carcasses condemned were casualty animals. Virus pneumonia was again very prevalent in pigs.

It is estimated that the total weight of meat and offal condemned was 1 ton 14 cwts.

CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle Exclu- ding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	77	—	4	1097	2476	—
Number inspected... ..	77	—	4	1097	2476	—
All diseases except Tuber- culosis and Cysticerci—						
Whole carcasses condemned	2	—	1	14	5	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	13	—	—	124	696	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerci ...	19.5	—	25.0	12.4	28.3	—
Tuberculosis only :						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	—	—	—	—	14	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	0.6	—
Cysticercosis :						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

Poultry.

Number of poultry processing premises	..	3
Number of visits to these premises	.. ..	7
Estimated number and types of birds processed during the year :		
Turkeys	.. ..	500
Hens	.. ..	3,000
Capons	.. ..	200
Total	.. ..	3,700
Estimated percentage of birds rejected as unfit for human consumption	.. ..	6%
Estimated weight of poultry rejected as unfit for human consumption	.. ..	1,080 lbs.

None of these establishments have a large throughput and mainly concern the preparation and sale of poultry normally associated with egg production. Occasional visits are made to these premises to ensure that birds are dressed under hygienic conditions and that no unsound birds are sold. No complaints were received during the year regarding the condition of any poultry sold through these sources.

Foreign Matter and Mould Growth in Food.

Of ten complaints received during the year seven concerned foreign matter in food and three involved mould growth. All these complaints were dealt with informally and due warnings were given where necessary.

Other Foods Inspected.

The following table shows the quantities of other foods inspected, found unfit for human consumption and satisfactorily disposed of ; 67 visits were involved.

		<i>cwt.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Cooked Meat and Meat Products	.. ..	1	—
Canned Meats	.. ..	1	—
Other Canned Foods	.. ..	2	—
Fish—Frozen	.. ..	1	—
Fruit and Vegetables—Frozen	.. ..	—	28
Other Foods	.. ..	—	56
		5	84

Food Sampling.

The Staffordshire County Council are the Food and Drugs Authority for this area and during the year they took 23 samples of milk which were all found to be genuine, and 73 samples of various other foods of which two samples were found not genuine. Both these concerned misleading labels which were altered.

Ice Cream.

119 premises are registered under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the storage and sale of ice cream, and a number of mobile vehicles based in adjacent districts also operate in this area. 29 visits were made for the purpose of sampling and a total of 33 samples were taken for bacteriological examination. The following table indicates the results of these samples.

GRADES				Total
1	2	3	4	
24	2	4	3	33

All unsatisfactory samples were again taken from mobile vehicles and we still have no adequate powers of control over their operation. Shop premises have to be registered under the Food and Drugs Act, a registration which can be cancelled under certain circumstances, but the mobile trader whose vehicle can be most elusive at times is not required by the Act to be registered at all.

Milk.

Milk sampling is carried out by the Staffordshire County Health Inspector, who, during the year took the following 168 samples from within the district.

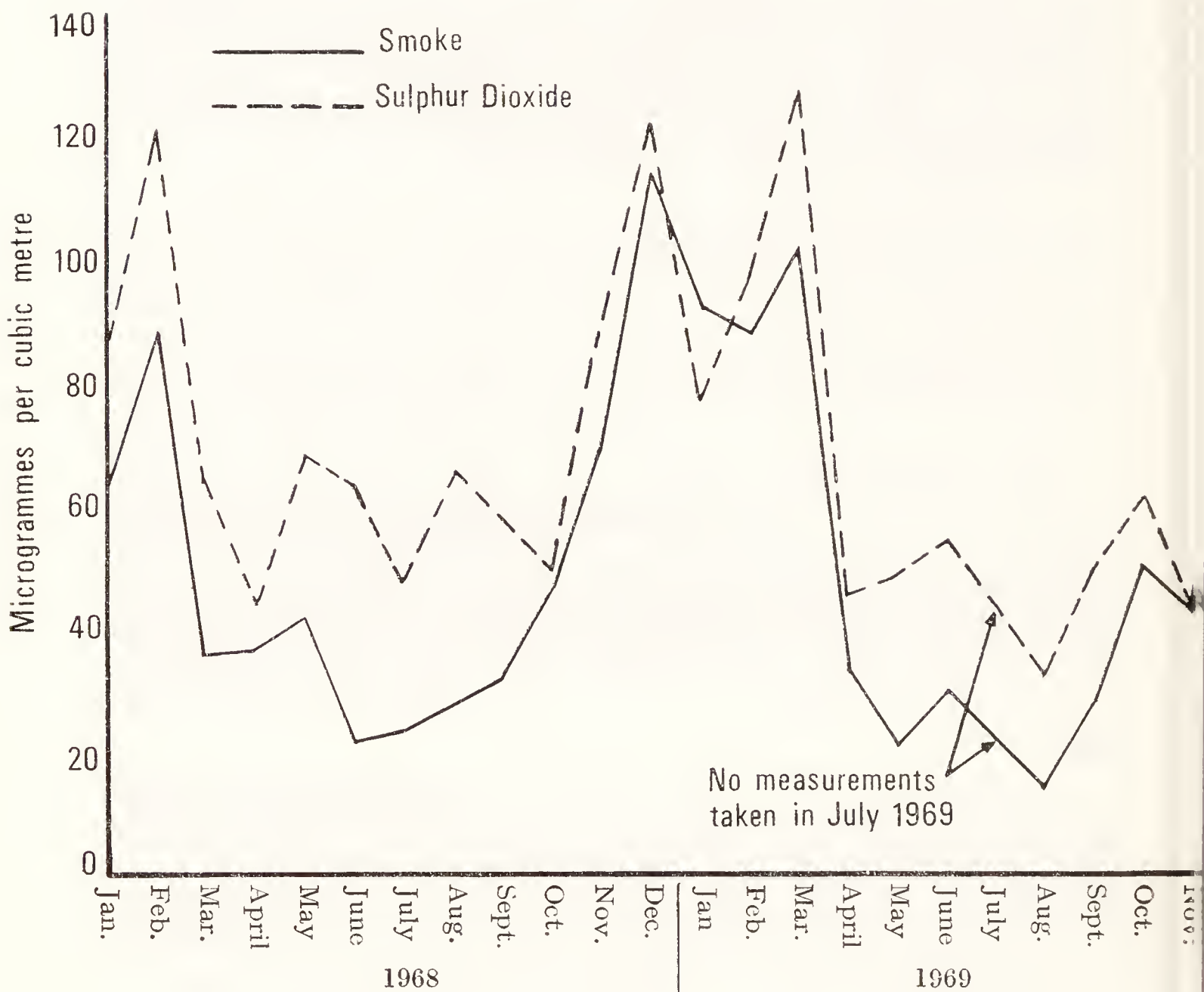
Untreated (farm bottled)	..	..	..	..	8
Pasteurised	..	..	..	..	156
Sterilised	..	..	..	..	4

Four of these 168 samples failed the Methylene Blue Test ; these were samples of pasteurised milk.

CLEAN AIR

Measurement of Pollution.

A standard daily volumetric measuring instrument sited at the Council Offices, Wombourne, was used in conjunction with the National Survey of Air Pollution undertaken by the Ministry of Technology, and the following graphs are based on recordings taken. These readings clearly indicate the need for smoke control in this area.



Domestic Pollution.

In 1966 a progressive decision was made to include nearly 75% of the houses in the district in Smoke Control Areas within a Programme of fifteen years. This Programme which was approved in principle by the Ministry was intended to include those parts of the district which, due to their situation, were areas of heavy atmospheric pollution and it would also co-ordinate on the eastern boundaries with the Smoke Control Programmes of neighbouring Authorities of the West Midlands Conurbation. Owing to the financial restrictions on local authority spending the first Order made under this Programme in 1967 in respect of the Bull Meadow area of Wombourne was delayed in 1968 and subsequently withdrawn in 1969.

Now that your Council has approved that a start be made with this Programme, progress is again held up because of the inadequate supply of solid smokeless fuels.

No new Smoke Control Orders came into operation during the year and only in the following areas is there any control of domestic pollution.

<i>Order.</i>	<i>Area.</i>	<i>Acreage.</i>	<i>Premises.</i>
In operation—			
Seisdon No. 1 ..	The Straits, Himley	57	36
Sedgley Nos. 2 & 7	Baggeridge, Himley ..	698	58
Sedgley No. 8 ..	Himley Wood ..	5	—
Wolverhampton			
No. 2	Pendeford, Wrottesley	10	—
Sedgley No. 9 ..	Gospel End, Himley..	282	51
		<hr/> 1052	<hr/> 145

Industrial Pollution.

Industrial smoke pollution from factories under the control of your inspectors is very minimal and gave very little cause for concern during the year. Contraventions of the Clean Air Act were occasionally recorded and dealt with informally.

Three notifications were received for the installation of new furnaces and suitable chimney heights were obtained.

HOUSING

Housing Improvements.

For many years we have been encouraging the owners of good but sub-standard houses to improve them with the aid of improvement grants. This policy has been quite successful in respect of tenanted dwellings. The much more attractive grants and the eventual rent increases contained in the 1969 Housing Act were therefore particularly welcome.

Nevertheless it was a matter for regret that these new improvement grant provisions were brought into operation with such undue haste. It was an unfair embarrassment that your officers should have received enquiries upon the conditions of these new grants before they had even received copies of the Act, not to mention the lengthy Ministry circulars upon interpretation which were to come later.

It was equally unfortunate that a certain amount of the national publicity given to these grants was misleading in some directions; and many interested owners were surprised when they were given the fuller details of the scheme. The mention of central heating was a particular example.

By the end of the year there was a steady acceleration in the number of applications and next year's report should be able to assess whether these generous grants are having the desired effect in respect of tenanted properties.

Housing Defects.

31 Informal Notices were served during the year. These required the execution of essential repairs, improvements to water supplies and drainage, and conversion of pail closets to the water carriage system.

During the year repairs and improvements were effected in 35 houses within the district, and the following table indicates the nature of the works carried out.

Summary of Repairs and Improvements effected.

Repairs to roof, walls and external structures ..	23
Internal repairs to walls, ceilings and floors ..	26
Repairs to doors, windows, and other internal fittings	10
Dampness remedied	18
Repairs and improvement to water supplies ..	7
Repair and improvement to drainage system ..	19
Pail closets abolished	29
Water closets provided	24

Unfit Housing Programme.

Since the commencement of the Unfit Housing Programme in 1955 a total of 609 unfit dwellings have been dealt with under the Housing Acts. 77 of these were included in 14 clearance areas and the remaining 532 were dealt with as individual unfit houses.

No clearance areas were declared in 1969 and only 9 individual unfit houses not capable of repair at reasonable expense were represented and action taken as follows :—

Number of Demolition Orders made	8
Number of Undertakings not to Relet accepted ..	1

At the end of the year a total of 180 houses remained to be dealt with and there were 24 unfit houses formally represented but still occupied.

Houses in Multiple Occupation.

There are only two houses in the district which are known to be in use for multiple occupation and whilst one is satisfactory in all respects the other has presented many problems. Notices were served during the year under Sections 15 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1961, in respect of it.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are no common lodging houses in this district.

CARAVANS

Adequate accommodation for caravans exists in this district on sites with high standards of amenity. The following sites are licensed for the number of caravans stated.

Sites licensed for more than one caravan :

Silver Poplars, Kingswood	..	..	21	caravans
White Harte, Kinver	..	..	29	„
Pendeford Hall, Wrottesley	..	..	68	„

Single caravan sites licensed for special purposes :

12 sites	12	caravans
----------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----------

Council operated sites :

Hinksford Mobile Homes Park	..	135	caravans
-----------------------------	----	-----	----------

The management of your Council's model caravan park at Hinksford continues to be a pleasant duty mainly because of the conscientious manner in which your resident Site Warden, Mr. J. D. Westwood, performs his duties. Waiting lists are correctly maintained and operated with special priorities to those applicants who reside or work within this rural district. Although there were some 64 caravans changed during the year no voids were incurred on the 133 residential plots. The two transit plots proved of benefit to visitors and travellers. Affairs of management involved some 42 visits to the site.

109 visits were made to licensed sites during the year and 118 visits to individual caravans. The unlicensed siting of caravans entailed a further 39 inspections of land with a total of 24 caravans being involved.

WORKING CONDITIONS IN OFFICES AND SHOPS

The Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act is designed to make provision for securing the health, safety, and welfare of persons employed to work in offices, shops and railway premises ; the Council's responsibilities are mainly for offices and shops, but not for offices in factories which are the responsibility of Her Majesty's Factory Inspectorate.

Most of the provisions of the Act came into operation in 1964, and between 1964 and 1966 all registered premises received their first general inspections. Since 1966, premises with contraventions have been re-visited to obtain compliance and during 1967 a general system of re-inspection was commenced. Re-inspections of all registered premises are now carried out as routine and thereby ensuring that due compliance with the requirements of the Act is maintained. Very few problems now arise and once again there were no complaints from employees.

In many cases these inspections are carried out in conjunction with visits under other public health legislation such as the Food Hygiene Regulations, etc. Although it was thought last year that some statutory action might become necessary in a few cases this course of action did not have to be taken.

Analysis of Contraventions found during 1969.

Section 4—Cleanliness. 12 premises were found to be in need of redecoration in some part of the premises.

Section 6—Temperature. 8 premises were without a suitable thermometer.

Section 7—Ventilation. In 8 premises improved means of ventilation was necessary.

Section 8—Lighting. There was one instance where lighting was inadequate and unsuitable.

Section 9—Sanitary Conveniences. Three premises had defective sanitary accommodation.

Section 10—Washing Facilities. Five premises had defective or deficient washing facilities.

Section 12—Accommodation for Clothing. In six premises it was found that accommodation for clothing was inadequate ; mainly because there were no satisfactory arrangements for drying of wet outdoor clothing.

Section 13—Sitting Facilities. One premise failed to provide suitable facilities for sitting.

Section 16—Floors, Passages and Stairs. Defective conditions existed in five premises.

Section 24—First Aid Provisions. In 10 premises first aid boxes were found not to be up to standard.

Section 48—Notification of Accidents. There were three accidents reported during the year. Two involved female employees, one slipping on ice in a yard and the other tripping over an object in a shop. One male employee injured his back whilst lifting an office machine.

Section 50—Information to Employees. Eight premises were found not to have provided the necessary information to their employees.

Work done during 1969 :

Section of Act and Subject Matter.	Number of Registered premises where Improvements have been carried out to comply with the Act.			
	Offices	Shops	Catering Establish- ments	TOTAL
4 Cleanliness	—	9	10	19
6 Temperature	5	4	1	10
7 Ventilation	—	1	—	1
8 Lighting	—	—	1	1
9 Sanitary Conveniences ...	—	1	2	3
10 Washing Facilities ...	2	—	1	3
12 Accommodation for Clothing	3	5	1	9
16 Floors, Passages, Stairs ...	1	6	5	12
24 First Aid Provision ...	3	8	1	12
50 Information to Employees	3	1	—	4
TOTALS	17	35	22	74

Registrations and General Inspections.

Class of premises.	Number of premises newly registered during the year.	Total number of registered premises at end of year.	Number of registered premises receiving one or more general inspections during the year.
Offices	4	34	4
Retail Shops... ..	5	101	5
Wholesale shops, warehouses ...	Nil	2	Nil
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	2	36	2
Fuel Storage depots	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTALS	11	173	11

Number of visits of all kinds (including General Inspections) to Registered Premises :

280

Analysis by workplace of persons employed in Registered Premises at end of year :

Class of workplace	No. of persons employed
Office	322
Retail shops	339
Wholesale departments, warehouses	5
Catering establishments open to the public	267
Canteens	Nil
Fuel storage depots	Nil
TOTAL	933
Total Males	400
Total Females	533

Exemptions : Nil.

Prosecutions : Nil.

WORKING CONDITIONS IN FACTORIES

Factories Act, 1961.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises.	No. on Register.	No. of		
		In-spections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers prosecuted.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	10	12	1	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	79	46	6	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	89	58	7	—

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found.				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient ...	1	1	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective ...	5	4	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes ...	1	1	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	7	6	—	—	—

Part VIII of the Act

Outwork

(Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of Work (1)	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prose- cutions (7)
The Making of Boxes, etc.	1	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	1	—	—	—	—	—

No. of Inspections : 3

OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

The following summary indicates the numbers of inspections and other visits paid by the Public Health Inspectors in respect of the subjects listed :—

Public Health Nuisances	..	..	..	..	196
Drainage	..	..	..	..	414
Infectious Diseases	..	..	..	..	64
Dirty/Verminous Premises	..	..	..	..	17
Piggeries/Other animals kept	..	..	..	..	27
Water Supply	..	..	..	..	73
Swimming Pools	..	..	..	..	1
Rodent and Insect Pest Control	..	..	..	..	94
Tents, Vans and Sheds	..	..	..	..	2

Action in respect of nuisances includes repairs to houses where the defects can be regarded as “ prejudicial to health or a nuisance.”

Other activities included the provision and maintenance of satisfactory drainage, the conversion of pan closets to water closets, the investigation of infectious diseases, and the sampling of water supplies and swimming pools.

Samples taken.

Water samples for bacteriological examination	..	326
Water samples for chemical examination	..	3
Swimming bath samples for bacteriological and chemical examinations	.. .. .	3

Complaints.

Some 1,895 complaints were received during the year and these were all investigated and the appropriate action taken where necessary. 719 related to the presence of rats, mice and other pests ; 614 concerned obstructed drains ; all these were dealt with expeditiously by your rodent operative. 411 complaints on refuse collection were promptly dealt with and the other 151 which concerned offensive smells, noise, atmospheric pollution, unsound food, water supply, housing defects, etc., were given careful investigation.

Noise Abatement.

The number of noise complaints received was 19, twice as many as in the previous year. Many of these related to the barking of dogs, usually where inconsiderate owners left their dogs unattended for long periods. The problems of night work in factories still continued, particularly where housing development has taken place in close proximity.

Noise from the operation of certain clubs also presented problems. It was not necessary to take any statutory action as in all cases improvements were achieved by informal action. 69 visits were made by your inspectors and many of these had to be made at night.

Hairdressers and Barbers.

Byelaws were made in 1963 for the purpose of securing the cleanliness of premises at which a hairdressers or barbers business is carried on and of the instruments, towels, materials and equipment used therein, and the cleanliness of hairdressers or barbers working in such premises in regard to both themselves and their clothing.

31 inspections were carried out upon the 19 premises concerned and a number of improvements were effected.

Inspections under the Housing Acts.

Preliminary surveys of houses	..	..	..	69
Primary inspections .. ..	..	..	..	92
Re-inspections .. ..	..	..	..	502
Inspections re Improvement	..	..	..	156
Investigation of Overcrowding	..	..	..	1

Petroleum Consolidation Act.

89 premises were licensed under this Act for the storage of petroleum spirit. 23 of these are public filling stations and 66 are private installations.

Conditions of licence are based on the Home Office Model Code, and are designed to protect those who come into close contact with highly inflammable substances. The small number of incidents that occur would seem to fully justify what sometimes may appear to be stringent requirements.

A total of 208 inspections were made under this Act and the following works effected :—

Tanks and Pipelines tested	..	..	..	6
Vent pipes repaired	..	..	..	8
Fire Equipment made up to scale	..	..	..	27
Safety Warning Notices provided	..	..	..	10
Electrical Equipment checked	..	..	..	25

Theatres Act

Licences are issued under this Act for the public performance of stage plays at certain village halls and schools. Conditions are imposed for the general safety of members of the public who attend these performances. They control the maximum numbers to be admitted, the arrangements for seating and gangways, the adequacy of exits and the emergency lighting of these, the provision of satisfactory fire fighting appliances and the fire proofing of stage materials, and other general matters in the interests of public safety. A close liaison is maintained with the Fire Prevention Officers of the Staffordshire County Council and their advice and recommendations are strictly adhered to.

Nine halls were licensed during the year and 33 inspections made to ensure that their conditions were fully complied with.

Animal Boarding.

The Animal Boarding Establishment Act, 1963, is designed to regulate the keeping of boarding establishments for animals and to ensure that the animals are housed and cared for satisfactorily and that precautions are taken to prevent the spreading of diseases. There are seven licensed establishments in the district and 12 inspections were made.

Pet Shops.

There are two licensed pet shops in the district.

Rodent Control.

Treatments for the eradication of rats and mice at dwellings are carried out free of charge ; business premises are charged on a time and material basis. The following tables shows the work carried out by your Rodent Operative in 1969.

		Type of Property	
Properties other than Sewers :		Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1.	Number of properties in district	12,513	499
2.	(a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	481	5
	(b) Number infested by :		
	(i) Rats	453	5
	(ii) Mice	28	—
3.	(a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	47	
	(b) Number infested by :		
	(i) Rats	15	—
	(ii) Mice	2	—

Sewer Treatment.

The situation in the sewers of the district was again found to be very satisfactory with 156 manholes being baited and no “ takes ” being recorded.

PUBLIC CLEANSING AND VEHICLE MAINTENANCE

Staffing. 1969 1968 1967 1966

Establishment—

Refuse collectors, including reliefs	35	35	36	36
Cesspool and pan emptiers ..	4	4	4	5
Tip and Depot attendants ..	2	2	2	2
Litter Clearance and Salvage				
Baling	2	2	2	2
Cleansing Foreman	1	1	1	1
Vehicle Mechanics	3	3	3	3
Rodent Operative	1	1	1	1
	48	48	49	50

Labour Turnover rate 8% 25% 16% 60%

Causes of Absence—

Sickness rate	7.4%	7.7%	4.3%	6.0%
Absentee rate	0.4%	1.0%	0.9%	1.7%
Days lost through accidents ..	13	4	17	102

Personal details—

Average age of employees (years)	44	44	43	45
Average length of service (years)	8	8½	8	8½
Disabled employees	1	1	2	2

Conversion of certain premises from dustbins to refuse sacks enabled the present establishment to cope with the increased number of properties.

Refuse Storage Arrangements.

	1969	1968	1967	1966
Dustbins replaced under rate borne scheme	873	989	1,185	974
Dustbins sold	68	68	69	71
Sack holders provided under replacement schemes	746	420	124	478
Sack holders sold or provided for new houses	33	37	51	17
Premises using refuse sacks (at 31st December)	2,084	1,353	866	730

It is now many years since the traditional galvanised dustbin was issued in this district ; the black polythene bins of similar 3¼ cu. ft. capacity have proved very satisfactory with their advantages of lighter weight, quietness and cleaner appearance. Nevertheless these advantages are again surpassed with the additional economic savings of the refuse sack system.

By the end of the year over 15% of premises were using the refuse sack system.

Refuse Collection Arrangements.

	1969	1968	1967	1966
Premises collected from (at 31st December)	13,300	13,100	12,534	12,198
No. of dustbins and sacks on rounds (at 31st December)	16,289	16,056	15,518	15,165
No. of dustbins and sacks emptied in year	813,041	806,581	780,354	784,765
Productivity (bins/sacks emptied per man-hour)	13.7	12.9	12.8	12.5
Special collections of odd bulky items of house refuse	355	216	181	57
Rechargeable collections of miscellaneous refuse	64	56	39	71

Domestic refuse continues to increase in volume and decrease in weight ; consequently there becomes a need for greater storage capacity at premises and for better compaction and carrying capacity in vehicles. These changing characteristics increase the problems of litter when loading and tipping the vehicle and produce yet another advantage for the refuse sack system.

A regular weekly collection service has been maintained throughout the year with the exception of those weeks following Bank Holidays. Refuse is collected from the rear of premises and empty bins are returned to their stance. The British Summer Time was a nuisance in the winter months once again and a later starting time had to be operated so that refuse receptacles did not have to stand on the kerbside long before daylight commenced.

Plans submitted under Building Regulations were examined and those proposing side garage erections were rejected unless they showed sufficient width to enable a dustbin to be wheeled through when an average sized car was parked.

Inadequate and unsuitable storage space for refuse at shops is still a big problem and informal discussions with developers of new shops still fails to achieve proper arrangements. Some statutory powers are very necessary here. It is also unfortunate that many shopkeepers seem to have no sense of pride in the appearance of their backyards, and some are even losing their interest in the appearance of their forecourts. Whilst I appreciate the shopkeepers resentment to trade refuse charges I live in hope that some collection arrangements for the hire of bulk containers may yet materialise at groups of shops.

Refuse Disposal.

					Estimated annual tonnage disposed of :			
					1969	1968	1967	1966
House and trade refuse collected	...	...	...	...	11,740	11,906	12,263	13,439
Litter, street sweepings, gulley and cess-pool sludge	...	...	...	...	1,340	1,415	1,479	335
Builders' and garden refuse	...	...	...	...	970	940	790	455
Industrial refuse	...	...	...	...	3,010	1,877	2,275	2,454
					<hr/> 17,060	<hr/> 16,138	<hr/> 16,807	<hr/> 16,783

Controlled tipping was the method of disposal for all refuse except for a small quantity of fibre board which was sorted, baled and sold. One central tip at Botterham served the whole of the rural area where a wheeled hydraulic loading shovel was used full-time to bulldoze, level and consolidate the refuse as soon as received and also to dig out sub-soil from the site to blind the sides, the face and the top surface. At the end of the year the new tip at Seisdon was taken into use leaving a small amount of tipping space at Botterham for the contents of the concrete bay used by residents there out of normal working hours. Large volumes of refuse are received every week in this bay and there is no doubt that it is of great benefit to our residents. Unfortunately it is also used by some people from adjacent areas whose authorities do not appear to publicise sufficiently their own facilities.

Towards the end of the year the bulk container vehicle was received and this enabled a number of 10 cu. yd. covered receptacles to be sited in various parts of the district for the reception of surplus bulky refuse from residents of those districts. Although these sites have presented problems both on account of the quantity of refuse received and also because of nuisance from disturbance of contents by children it is all refuse which was being deposited somewhere else before these Civic Amenity Act sites were created. It is therefore concentrating the collection of such refuse from certain specific places rather than having to pick it up from a multitude of illegal dumps. There is an ever growing need for these refuse reception sites but it is essential that all authorities shall do their full share in their provision.

Litter Clearance.

					1969	1968	1967	1966
Litter baskets sited in area	...	...	...	...	199	194	174	173
Total man-hours worked	...	...	...	...	4,135	4,016	4,731	4,722
Abandoned vehicles disposed of	...	...	...	...	25	17	8	4

A special three cubic yard vehicle operated throughout the year emptying litter receptacles, tidying trunk road lay-bys, urban centres and road verges and when possible a pedestrian controlled

suction sweeper was used on various shopping areas. All main village centres are tidied up each weekend and the public commons are cleared up as frequently as practicable. A conscientious part-time employee is engaged on the continual tidying up of Highgate Common but the extent of usage of this common has grown to such proportions that the amount of litter is sometimes more than he can cope with.

During the summer months I gave some talks to children in Schools in the Wombourne area about the problems of litter and endeavoured to persuade them to tackle some aspects of litter as a school project. One public spirited resident of Wombourne continued his activities as voluntary litter warden and he is to be commended for carrying on this work in spite of unpleasant responses from some members of the public. Support was again given to the Anti Litter Campaign of the Keep Britain Tidy Group but consideration ought to be given by all local authorities to increasing assistance to this body whose activities must be of benefit to them.

Every effort was taken to trace the most serious litter offenders in order to bring them to Court but it is not always appreciated how time consuming this can be. Every assistance was given by the officers of the Staffordshire County Police and in consequence a number of convictions were obtained.

Another time consuming activity is operating the cumbersome procedure under the Civic Amenities Act for dealing with abandoned vehicles. The preceding tables clearly indicates the growth of this problem.

The positive action taken by your Council in the provision of large bulk refuse containers in various parts of the district will permit of no possible excuse for the dumping of surplus refuse in future.

Cesspool and Pan Closet Emptying.

	1969	1968	1967	1966
Premises draining to cesspools (31st December)	883	910	920	848
Cesspools emptied in year	2,682	2,921	2,781	2,573
Thousands of gallons removed from cesspools	4,079	4,947	4,816	3,813
Premises with conservancy closets... ..	103	134	155	198
Pans emptied in year	6,890	8,400	10,839	14,038

Two cesspool emptying vehicles are engaged on this service. Cesspools are emptied upon demand except for those parts of the district where a regular routine emptying has been organised. As the extension of sewerage systems progresses, the opportunity is taken to extend these routine emptying programmes. All pan closets are emptied weekly.

Public Conveniences.

The seven public conveniences receive regular cleansing and maintenance. Vandalism and abuse continues to be a problem and makes this service a distasteful and frustrating one.

Work Study Incentive Bonus Schemes.

	1969	1968	1967	1966
Annual productivity increase	+4%	+1%	+4%	+4%
Annual increase in men's total earnings ...	+5%	+7%	+5%	+2%
Amount paid out in bonus	£10,204	£10,024	£8,719	£7,938
Nett benefit to Council (based on reduced unit costs and allowing for administration costs)	£14,100	£14,700	£14,400	£14,900

Maintenance and extensions to the work study schemes, which cover all full-time outside employees, are carried out by personnel from within the department. Bonus rates were increased at the beginning of the year to maintain them at one-third of basic rates for standard performance.

Vehicle Maintenance.

	1969	1968	1967	1966
Number of road vehicles regularly serviced	38	37	36	32
Percentage of working time vehicles under repair	3.4%	3.2%	2.4%	2.9%
Total fleet mileage	357,800	357,100	347,700	349,020
Total accidents involving vehicles... ..	16	15	12	27
Mileage per road accident where Council driver to blame	119,270	71,420	57,950	49,860
Number of Safe Driving Awards	24	26	26	18

Most of the Council vehicles are garaged at Heath Mill Depot where there is a modern fully equipped repair workshop and paint spray room. Set servicing schedules are laid down for all vehicles, which are called in at least once every four weeks for inspection, servicing, repair and testing.

Your three mechanics have again worked well to maintain your vehicles up to the high standard now required by legislation. With vehicles up to ten years old this is no easy task and your decision to include a regular annual contribution to the repairs and renewals for an assured number of years ahead will permit of a more long term forward planning programme for the replacement of vehicles in order to avoid wasteful major overhauls in the later years of a vehicle's life.

Vehicle Fleet Details.

No. and Type.				Service.
1	Dennis Paxit (16/24 cu. yd.)	...	...	Refuse Collection
2	Dennis Paxit (14/35 cu. yd.)	...	...	" "
2	Karrier Ramillies (7/20 cu. yd.)	...	...	" "
2	Karrier Ramillies (14/35 cu. yd.)	...	...	" "
1	Karrier Dual Tip (12 cu. yd.)	...	...	" "
2	Karrier Dual Tip (25 cu. yd.)	...	...	" "
1	Karrier Multi Lift (8 tons)	...	...	Refuse Collection and Sewerage.
1	Ford Eagle (3 cu. yd.)	...	...	Litter Collection.
2	Bray Shovels (1½ cu. yd.)	...	...	Refusal Disposal.
2	Karrier-Yorkshire (1,000 gallon)	...	...	Cesspool and Pan Emptying.
1	Ford-Yorkshire (800 gallon)	...	...	Sewerage.
1	Commer Tipper (5 tons)	...	...	Sewerage.
1	Ford Tipper (3 tons)	...	...	Housing Maintenance.
1	Ford Tipper (25 cwt.)	...	...	Green Areas.
1	Ford Tipper (17 cwt.)	...	...	Housing Maintenance.
2	Ford Tippers (15 cwt.)	...	...	Housing Maintenance and Green Areas.
2	Bedford Personnel Carriers (15 cwt.)	...	...	Housing Maintenance and Sewerage.
2	Ford Tractors	...	...	Green Areas and Sewerage.
6	Ford Vans (5 cwt.)	...	...	Sewerage and Housing Maintenance.
1	Ford Van (6 cwt.)	...	...	Rodent Operator.
1	Land Rover (16 cwt.)	...	...	Vehicle Maintenance.
3	Dumpers	...	...	Sewerage.

Inspections and Visits by Public Health Inspectors.

Refuse Collection	..	..	..	..	..	245
Refuse Disposal	..	..	..	..	..	177
Litter Clearance	..	..	..	..	..	200
Transport Maintenance	..	..	..	..	..	44
Public Conveniences	..	..	..	..	..	38
Trade Refuse Collection	..	..	..	..	..	36
Salvage Recovery	..	..	..	..	..	3

Annual expenditure on Public Cleansing.

				1968/9	1967/8	1966/7
Nett Cost—				£	£	£
Refuse Collection	...	...	...	53,341	51,416	45,475
Dustbin Replacement Scheme	...	...	...	3,673	4,700	4,973
Refuse Disposal and Salvage	...	...	...	4,515	4,414	3,483
Litter Clearance	...	...	...	3,667	3,786	3,800
Pan and Cesspool Emptying	...	...	...	8,639	7,865	7,218
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	2,032	2,272	2,324
Drain Clearing	...	...	...	475	415	265
				76,342	74,868	67,538
Income—All Services	...	...	...	2,622	1,591	2,247
Gross Cost	...	...	...	78,964	76,459	69,785
Rate burden for services shown	...	...	...	11¾d.	12¼d.	11¾d.

Overall Unit Costs of Various Services.

				1968/9		1967/8		1966/7	
				£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Dry Refuse Removal—									
Per ton collected	..	..	..	4	10	6	4	5	5
Per ton disposed of	..	..	..		6	2		5	3
Per dustbin emptied	..	..	..		1	3		1	2
Collection and Disposal—									
Per premises per year	..	..	..	4	14	5	4	10	6
Pan Emptying—									
Per premises collected from									
per year	..	..	..	12	17	11	9	11	9
Per pan collected	..	..	..		4	7		3	3
Cesspool Emptying—									
Per cesspool emptied	..	..	..	2	12	2	2	9	0
Per premises per year (average)	..	..	..	8	5	0	7	5	9
Per 1,000 gallons removed	..	..	..	1	13	6	1	11	2

Total Fleet Operating Costs (All Council's vehicles—drivers' wages not included) :

				1968/9		1967/8		1966/7
Vehicles in fleet	..	..	..	37		36		32/35
Gross Cost	..	..	..	£30,820		£27,650		£26,120
Cost per road mile	..	..	..	1/9¼d.		1/6½d.		1/5¾d.
Proportion of total costs—								
Fuels and Lubricants	..	..	..	21%		19%		19%
Repairs	..	..	..	36%		39%		35%
Road Tax and Insurance	..	..	..	12%		9%		9%
Depreciation	..	..	..	16%		19%		19%
Depot and Administration	...	..	..	15%		14%		18%

Printed by
C. H. BOWCOTT LTD
Wednesbury, Staffs.
